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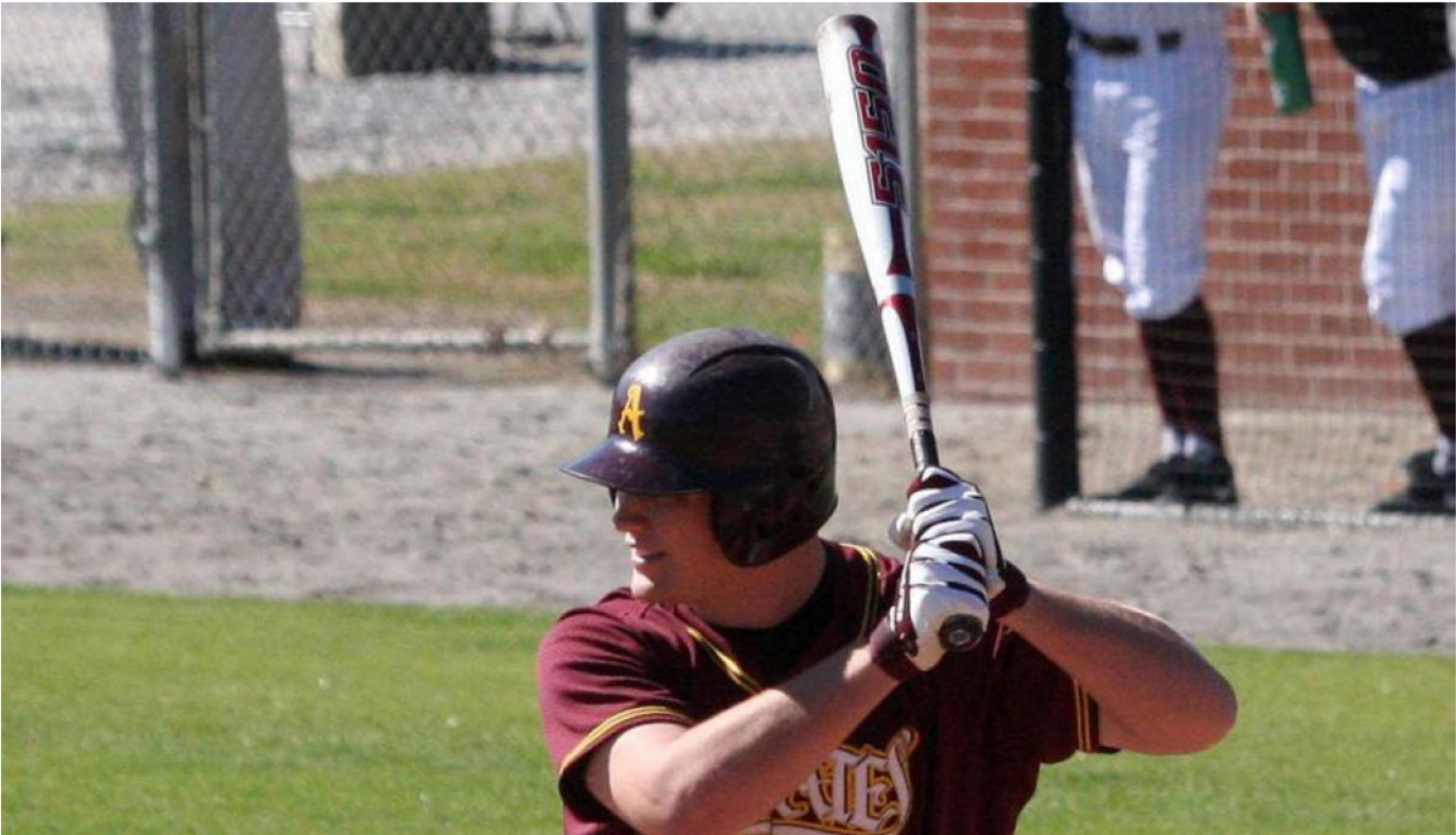
[Box Score](#)

Pirates Claim Series Over No. 6 USC Aiken With 2-1 Win On Sunday

USC AIKEN

ARMSTRONG

1	Final	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	2
	USC AIKEN (15-5)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	7	1	
	ARMSTRONG (11-6)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	X	2	6	0	





Posted: Mar 10, 2013

SAVANNAH, Ga. - Sophomore **R.J. Dennard**'s two-out RBI single in the bottom of the eighth inning snapped a 1-1 tie and gave the Armstrong Atlantic State University baseball squad a PBC series-clinching 2-1 victory over No. 6-ranked USC Aiken on Sunday afternoon at Pirate Field.

Armstrong improves to 11-6 overall and 5-6 in the Peach Belt Conference with its first league series win of the year, while USC Aiken (15-5, 6-3 PBC) drops a league series for the first time in 2013.

The Pirates got on the board in the bottom of the first inning thanks to back-to-back singles by **Casey Maloney** and **Dalton Johnson**, a groundout by **Chase Butler** that moved the runners over, then an RBI groundout by Dennard that put Armstrong up, 1-0.

Starting pitcher **Ethan Bader** held the Pacers scoreless - pitching out of a bases-loaded one-out jam in the second inning - until a sixth-inning two-out RBI double by Ty Barkell tied the game up at 1-all. Bader hurled seven innings of five-hit, one-run ball, walking two and striking out four, but was not involved in the decision.

BATTING
USC AIKEN
2B: Ty Barkell
3B: none
HR: none
ARMSTRONG
2B: Will Thomas
3B: none
HR: none

FULL STATS

In the bottom of the eighth, **Cody Rushing** led off with a single against Pacer starter Wyatt Brown (2-1). Casey Maloney moved Rushing to second on a sacrifice bunt, and lefty reliever Caleb Smith entered to face Dalton Johnson. Johnson grounded out to shortstop, and Smith intentionally walked Butler to face the lefty-hitting Dennard, who then stroked a single up the middle to drive in Rushing with the go-ahead run.

Juan Vera gave up a one-out single in the ninth, and the final out of the game came on a ground ball to third, where Butler's throw to first pulled Dennard off the bag. Dennard missed a swipe tag on the batter, Sean Miller, but Miller overran first base without tagging the bag and Dennard applied the tag to end the game.

Vera hurled two innings of two-hit shutout ball, walking two to pick up the win, improving to 3-2 on the season. Brown took the loss for the Pacers, giving up five hits and two runs in 7 1/3 innings of work, walking two while striking out five.

Dennard drove in both runs for the Pirates, while **Will Thomas** had the only extra base hit in the game for Armstrong with a second-inning double.

Ryan Metzler had two hits on the day to lead the Pacers at the plate.

Armstrong returns to action on Thursday, March 14, hosting Philadelphia University in a day-night doubleheader at Grayson Stadium. The first game begins at 12:30 p.m. and the second game begins at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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